

Message Text

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SECDEF FOR DSAA//ISA//AFRICAN DESK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CG

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF DELIVERY OF MTAT II REPORT TO GOZ

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING TWO DAYS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH GOZ ON MTAT II REPORT, GEN. ROCKWELL WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND INFORMED THAT CONTENTS OF REPORT WERE ACCEPTABLE AND THAT GOZ AGREED TO IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF GROUND FORCE UPGRADE PACKAGE. MOBUTU EXPRESSED VIEW, HOWEVER, THAT INITIAL GROUND PACKAGE SHOULD BE BRIGADE RATHER THAN BATTALION AND THAT TIMEFRAME FOR LONG-TERM FORCE MODERNIZATION SHOULD BE CONDENSED. END SUMMARY.

2. GEN. ROCKWELL, WITH COL. GERACI, BRIEFED GEN. BABIA AND HIS STAFF ON THE REPORT ON 18 NOVEMBER. THIS SESSION LASTED SOME
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2-1/2 HOURS. GEN. ROCKWELL EXPLAINED THAT THERE ARE INCONSISTENCIES

BETWEEN THE WRITTEN REPORT AND HIS ORAL PRESENTATION, E.G., THE WRITTEN REPORT DOES NOT CONTAIN M60 TANKS, WHICH WERE INCLUDED IN THE BRIEFING. ALSO, GEN. ROCKWELL'S ORAL PRESENTATION COMPRESSED THE GROUND FORCE IMPACT PACKAGE IN TIME TO 24 MONTHS, VICE 36 MONTHS IN THE REPORT; AND PROMISED THE DELIVERY OF THE 105 HOWITZER BATTERY WITHIN 18 MONTHS, VICE 38 MONTHS.

3. GEN. ROCKWELL EMPHASIZED THE ADVANTAGES OF V150 APC'S OVER M113'S AND MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE 24-MONTH DELIVERY TIME WOULD COMMENCE UPON SIGNING OF LOA'S. TWO COPIES OF REPORT GIVEN TO GEN. BABIA, WHO ALSO TOOK COPIOUS NOTES.

4. GEN. ROCKWELL MET AGAIN WITH GEN. BABIA ON 19 NOVEMBER FOR ABOUT 1-1/2 HOURS TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS. GEN. ROCKWELL TOLD GEN. BABIA THAT THE "HIGH LEVEL" SURVEY TEAM WOULD BE HEADED BY A GENERAL OFFICER AND WOULD ARRIVE IN COUNTRY IMMEDIATELY AFTER SIGNINGS OF LOA'S.

5. THE PRESENTATION TO GEN. BABIA AND ARMY STAFF WAS WELL RECEIVED.

6. ON 20 NOVEMBER, GEN. ROCKWELL, COL. GERACI AND AMBASSADOR MET WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU FOR ABOUT AN HOUR. THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY BRIEFED BY GEN. BABIA, SO KNEW EXACTLY WHAT WAS IN THE TOTAL (WRITTEN AND ORAL) REPORT.

7. GROUP WAS CORDIALLY RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT, WHO THANKED GEN. ROCKWELL FOR HIS EFFORTS. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT FROM A MILITARY STANDPOINT, THE REPORT WAS WELL DONE AND HE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH ITS CONTENTS. SPECIFICALLY, HE ACCEPTED THE GROUND FORCE UPGRADE PACKAGE FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION. MOBUTU INDICATED PARTICULAR SATISFACTION THAT TANKS HAD BEEN ADDED IN THE LIGHT OF ZAIRE'S NEED TO ACHIEVE SOME DEGREE OF MILITARY BALANCE WITH ITS BETTER-ARMED NEIGHBORS.

8. MOBUTU WENT ON TO COMMENT THAT THE REPORT GAVE INADEQUATE CONSIDERATION TO THE URGENT PSYCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL ASPECTS OF ZAIRE'S PRESENT SITUATION. HE EXPLAINED THAT IT IS PSYCHOLOGICALLY DEBILITATING FOR HIS ARMED FORCES AND POPULATION TO KNOW THAT THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF TANKS IN ANGOLA AND CONGO

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BRAZZAVILLE, AND THAT ZAIRE HAS ONLY 30 OLD CHINESE TANKS. HE FEELS LIKE "A PIECE OF HAM SQUEEZED BETWEEN TWO PIECES OF BREAD". HE THEREFORE ASKED GEN. ROCKWELL TO CONVEY HIS VIEW THAT THE INITIAL GROUND PACKAGE SHOULD BE A BRIGADE RATHER THAN A BATTALION, AND THAT THE PROJECTED 12-YEAR TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETION OF THE GROUND, AIR AND NAVAL FORCE SHOULD BE CONDENSED.

9. GEN. ROCKWELL EXPLAINED THE REALITIES OF THE US CRITICAL

SHORTAGE OF TANKS TO COUNTER THE THREAT IN EUROPE. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT ALTHOUGH HE IS BUT A SIMPLE SOLDIER DELIVERING A REPORT WHICH APPEARS TO BE RESPONSIVE, HE WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THE POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT ON THE ZAIROIS ARMY AND PEOPLE, AS WELL AS ON ANGOLA AND CONGO BRAZZAVILLE, WHEN THEY OBSERVE THE ARRIVAL OF FIRST-LINE US EQUIPMENT SUCH AS M60 TANKS.

10. THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED CONGRESSIONAL AND BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS. GEN. ROCKWELL OBSERVED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S CONCERN RE TIMEFRAME FOR MODERNIZATION FORCE WAS LEGITIMATE MATTER FOR SURVEY TEAM TO CONSIDER.

1. PRESIDENT MOBUTU AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS SINCERE APPRECIATION TO GEN. ROCKWELL FOR HIS EFFORTS, AND REPEATED HIS REQUEST THAT ROCKWELL CONVEY TO WASHINGTON PLANNERS THE CONCERNS MENTIONED PARA 8 ABOVE.

12. AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: GEN. ROCKWELL DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB, AS DID CHIEF ZAMISH, FIRST IN THEIR CONSULTATIONS WITH GEN. BABIA AND OTHER FAZ ELEMENTS, AND FINALLY IN MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. IT WAS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN THAT MOBUTU WOULD REACT POSITIVELY TO THE REPORT, AND INDEED WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT HIS INITIAL REACTION TENDED TO BE NEGATIVE, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO THE SIZE AND CONTENT OF THE GROUND FORCE IMPACT PACKAGE. HOWEVER, A COMBINATION OF TACT AND PERSUASION CONTRIBUTED TO WHAT CAN BE VIEWED AS SUCCESSFUL MISSION. ALSO CONTRIBUTING TO GOZ'S AGREEMENT IS MOBUTU'S UNDERSTANDING THAT INCLUSION OF SURVEY TEAM IN PACKAGE WILL SERVE AS BASIS FOR CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS ON ADDITIONAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE. FURTHER COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE PROVIDED SEPARATELY.

CUTLER

UNQUOTE ROBINSON.

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